

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 CPR-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /070 W  
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R 171353Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6480  
INFO USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 05348

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, JO, US  
SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN-QUEEN NOOR WEDDING

1. IN SIMPLE MOSLEM CEREMONY JUNE 15 KING HUSSEIN MARRIED  
AMERICAN PRINCETON GRADUATE NOOR (NEE LISA) HALABY, 26,  
DAUGHTER OF FORMER FAA AND PAN AM PRESIDENT NAJEEB HALABY.  
THE CEREMONY ITSELF, AT WHICH MS. HALABY WAS THE ONLY  
WOMAN PRESENT, WAS RESTRICTED TO IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.  
IT WAS FOLLOWED BY A RELATIVELY SMALL RECEPTION FOR TOP  
JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT AND ARMY OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF THE  
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DIPLOMATIC CORPS, DISTINGUISHED JORDANIANS (INCLUDING  
KING'S FORMER WIFE PRINCESS MUNA AND FAMILY OF LATE  
QUEEN ALYA), AND OTHER FRIENDS. MRS. CYRUS VANCE, AN OLD  
FRIEND OF THE HALABY FAMILY, ATTENDED THE WEDDING AS  
OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. AND PARTICIPATED IN THE  
TWO DAYS OF SOCIAL EVENTS SURROUNDING THE WEDDING.  
PRESIDENT CARTER SENT A GIFT AS WELL AS A CONGRATULATORY

MESSAGE TO THE ROYAL COUPLE.

2. AS HAD BEEN PREDICTED, THE KING HAS GRANTED HIS BRIDE THE TITLE OF QUEEN, A TITLE NOT HELD BY HIS EARLIER FOREIGN WIFE PRINCESS MUNA, BUT HELD BY HIS TWO ARAB WIVES. THE GOJ HAS PUT SOME STRESS ON NOOR'S ARAB ANCESTRY AND HER CONVERSION TO THE MOSLEM RELIGION (THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MARRIAGE REFERS TO HER AS "THE MOSLEM MISS HALABY"). THE QUESTION OF TITLE HAS BOTHERED SOME JORDANIANS, BUT OPINION NOW SEEMS TO BE THAT, THE SUCCESSION ISSUE HAVING BEEN SETTLED, GRUMBLING AT THE GRANTING OF THE TITLE WILL BE MINIMAL.

3. THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE GOJ WENT ALL OUT TO KEEP THE WEDDING LOW KEY AND UNOSTENTATIOUS. THE WEDDING WAS CHIEFLY A DOMESTIC JORDANIAN AFFAIR, AND THE GOJ DID NOTHING TO CREATE A FESTIVE PRE-WEDDING ATMOSPHERE; AND LOCAL PUBLICITY WAS VERY RESTRAINED. INDEED, THE 80-90 INTERNATIONAL PRESS HERE FOR THE WEDDING HAD DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING OUT EVEN RELATIVELY MUNDANE DETAILS OF THE CEREMONY. ONE JOURNALIST TOLD US THAT THE GOJ EVEN PASSED THE WORD TO LOCAL PAPERS THAT A HUGE FLOOD OF CONGRATULATORY ADVERTISEMENTS WOULD NOT BE WELCOMED BY THE ROYAL PALACE. ALL IN ALL, THE KING SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DETERMINED THAT WEDDING WOULD BE PERSONAL, AND NOT MAJOR AFFAIR OF STATE. AS SUCH, IT WAS EXPECTED TO SET THE STYLE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF MODESTY AND UNPRETENTIOUSNESS KING HUSSEIN INTENDS TO FOLLOW IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEW QUEEN. JORDANIANS AS WHOLE SEEM GLAD TO SEE THE KING SO EBULLIENTLY HAPPY; THEY ALWAYS EXPECTED HE WOULD MARRY AGAIN AND ALSO SEEM TO FEEL REMARRIAGE IS LARGELY PERSONAL MATTER. WE JUDGE KING'S HANDLING OF MARRIAGE TO HAVE CAUGHT PUBLIC MOOD ALMOST PERFECTLY.

4. KING AND BRIDE ARE NOW IN AQABA AND WE UNDERSTAND HE PLANS TO CONTINUE WEDDING TRIP ABROAD. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR BEFORE HIS WEDDING, MUCH OF THE PESSIMISM AND LETHARGY WHICH HAS DOGGED KING SINCE QUEEN ALYA'S DEATH SEEMED TO HAVE DISSIPATED AND HE WAS IN EXCELLENT MOOD. WHILE NOOR'S INFLUENCE ON JORDAN WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO BE FELT, SHE CLEARLY HAS ALREADY HAD TONIC EFFECT ON KING, WHICH MAY WELL BE REFLECTED IN RENEWED INTEREST IN THE INTERNAL PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF JORDAN. SUDDARTH

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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